



\$2.99 #21

Noodwick™



INFINITWICK



Nodwick in: INFINTWICK

BY AARON WILLIAMS



GLUURG MAPHUMM
DROOKPHLMAGGGHH.

YES, YES, I
KNOW YOU'VE HAD A
HARD DAY, BEING ALMOST
KILLED AND EVERYTHING.
TELL ME ALL
ABOUT IT.

HE WAS A
BIT MORE COHERENT
WHEN I SAW HIM IN
THE ORB.

SO WE'RE
FOLLOWING A
VISION THAT YOU
ALONE HAD, IS
THAT IT?

DO YOU
HONESTLY HAVE A
BETTER IDEA?

FINE, WE'LL
INDULGE YOUR
FANTASIES A LITTLE
LONGER.

GOOD, BECAUSE
WE HAVE TO GET TO HIM
BEFORE SUNDOWN.

AND WHY
IS THAT?

ARTAX DIDN'T
GIVE ME SPECIFICS. ALL HE
SAID WAS THAT IT'S VERY IMPORTANT
THAT WE CATCH UP WITH THE EVIL
WIZARD BEFORE THE SUN
GOES DOWN.

DOOPSIE! YOU
HAVE TO GO AROUND THE
TREES, ARTAX.

REMEMBER
"AROUND?" WE TALKED
ABOUT THIS WHEN WE WERE
NEAR ALL THOSE ROCKS A
WHILE BACK.



LATER, OUR HEROS' QUARRY PAUSES...

WITH THAT
FOOL IN GREEN AT
DEATH'S DOOR, THOSE
MORONS WILL NEVER BE
ABLE TO FIND ME
IN TIME.

SO NOW... MY SPELL
IS COMPLETE, AND WHEN THE MOON
IS THE ONLY LIGHT CAST ON THIS PLACE,
MY LUNAR GATE WILL OPEN AND I CAN
RETURN TO THE TEMPLE WITH
BAPHUMMA'AL'S PRIZE.



THE ORB OF
OMNISCIENCE...



NO! I MUST NOT GIVE IN
TO TEMPTATION!

I HAVE
ONLY MINUTES
BEFORE THE
GATE OPENS. WHEN
I RETURN TO THE
TEMPLE, I
CAN INDULGE
MYSELF IN ITS
POWER.

POKE!

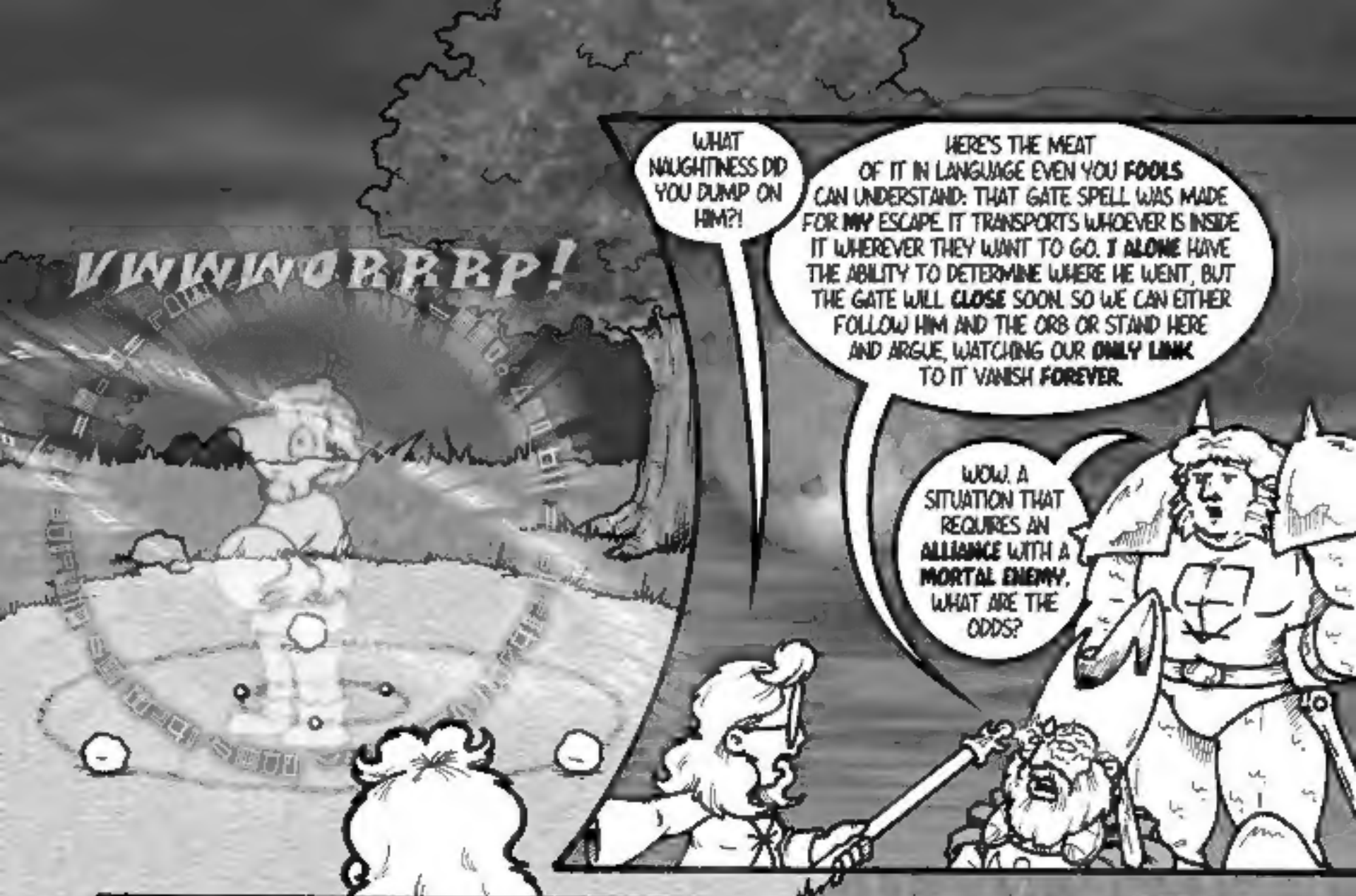


UM, I THINK
NITWICK'S GONE ON A
SMALL VACATION.

WE'LL SNAP HIM
OUT OF IT WHEN WE'VE
DECIDED WHAT TO DO WITH
BRIGHT EYES, HERE.

UNLESS
YOU MOVE HIM
IN THE NEXT FEW
SECONDS, ARGUING
OVER THE ORB IS
GOING TO BE A
MOOT--





WHAT NAUGHTINESS DID YOU DUMP ON HIM?!

HERE'S THE MEAT OF IT IN LANGUAGE EVEN YOU FOOLS CAN UNDERSTAND: THAT GATE SPELL WAS MADE FOR MY ESCAPE. IT TRANSPORTS WHOEVER IS INSIDE IT WHEREVER THEY WANT TO GO. I ALONE HAVE THE ABILITY TO DETERMINE WHERE HE WENT, BUT THE GATE WILL CLOSE SOON. SO WE CAN EITHER FOLLOW HIM AND THE ORB OR STAND HERE AND ARGUE, WATCHING OUR ONLY LINK TO IT VANISH FOREVER.

WOW. A SITUATION THAT REQUIRES AN ALLIANCE WITH A MORTAL ENEMY. WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

OKAY, BUT WE'RE KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU, MISTER! ONE FALSE MOVE AND YOU'LL GET SOME SUNSHINE WHERE THE SUN DOESN'T SHINE!

WHOA. EASY, THERE, PIFFANY. YOU'RE GOING TO SPRAIN SOMETHING.

COME ON, THEN. INTO THE GATE!



WHERE ARE WE?

A CAVE?

WHAT KIND OF CAVE COMES WITH A WOOD FLOOR, IDIOT?

I THINK I SMELL SOMETHING... GOOD?





AND HE'S OPENED
ANOTHER GATE! HOW IS
THAT POSSIBLE?!

CAN THE ORB
DO THAT?

MAYBE. I DIDN'T
GET TO HOLD IT LONG ENOUGH
TO FIND OUT.



OOOH. I LIKE
HER HAIR!

IT'S DAYTIME?

YES, ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF THE PLANET,
YOU DOLT!

C'MON,
ARTAX. FIND THE
BALL. WHERE'S THE
BALL?

BALL!



A SORCERER
LIVES HERE. I CAN
FEEL THE WARDS
AND WATCH-
SPELLS.

WILL THEY
HURT US?

I DON'T
BELIEVE SO.
SOMEONE SEEMS TO
HAVE BROKEN MOST
OF THE NASTY
ONES.



HELLO?
NITWICK? ARE
YOU HERE?

BALL!

HE
MUST BE
IN THE
BACK.

THANK YOU.
YOU ARE A FOUNT OF
OBVIOUSNESS IN A FOREST
OF CLUELESSNESS.

WWWORRRP!

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

HE'S OPENED YET ANOTHER PORTAL! AND IN THE DAYTIME! HE MUST BE USING AN EVEN GREATER SPELL THAN MINE!

CAN ALL HENCHMEN DO THAT? IT WOULD MAKE TRAVELING SO MUCH EASIER.

I MUST'VE MISSED THAT TRAINING SEMINAR.

UH-OH. I'M GUESSING THAT GUY WAS BREATHING A MINUTE AGO.

WE HAVE TO HELP HIM!

FORGET HIM, OR WE'LL LOSE NOT ONLY THE ORB, BUT OUR WAY OUT OF THIS UNKNOWN LAND! INTO THE GATE!

YOU AMFUL, AMFUL MAN! I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAVE HIM!

I DOUBT IT. HIS LIFE-FORCE WAS COMPLETELY TORN FROM HIM. THOUGH THE BODY WAS STILL WARM, I DON'T THINK HE WOULD HAVE WALKED AGAIN SAVE AS ONE OF THE UNDEAD.

YOU COULD TELL ALL THAT JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM?

IT'S AMAZING WHAT YOU CAN SEE WITH EYES LIKE THESE, HENCHMAN!

WELL, I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE, SOMETHING BEGINNING WITH "CASTLE."

BALL!

LET'S GO BEFORE NITWICK ESCAPES OR MAKES ANOTHER PERSON NOT-ALIVE!



HOW?

SIMPLE, MY DEAR. ALL OF THE SPELL-CASTERS YOUR FRIEND HAS KILLED WERE ONES WHO WOULD OPPOSE MY PLANS, WERE THEY TO KNOW THEM. HE'S ELIMINATING MY OPPOSITION, AS IT WERE.

GATE!

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN ACTUALLY STOP HIM THIS TIME. COME ON!

I AM BECOMING PARTICULARLY ANNOYED WITH THIS OTHER HENCHMAN YOU HAVE. WERE I YOU, I'D SEE THAT HE MEETS WITH AN ACCIDENT SOMEDAY SOON.

OH, DEAR.

I THINK THAT'S PRETTY MUCH INEVITABLE IN THIS OUTFIT.

I THINK I RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE!

YEAH! IT'S THE UNION HALL! WE'RE HOME!

SO WHERE'S NITWICK?

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHERE IS THE ORB?

IT'S RIGHT HERE.

AND I'M
FEELING MUCH BETTER,
THANK YOU!

ARTAX!
YOU'RE MAKING
SENSE AND NOT
BONKING INTO
STUFF!

WELCOME
BACK, YOU GREEN-
ROBED LUG!

NOW
WHAT SAY WE
DITCH PYRO-
DEEPERS OVER
HERE AND...

THANK YOU FOR THE
DISTRACTION, ARTAX, OTHERWISE I'M SURE
YOUR FRIENDS COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING
UNPLEASANT TO ME.

I WILL RELEASE THEM
UNHARMED, PROVIDED YOU GIVE ME
THE ORB OF OMNISCIENCE.



GOOD-BYE, YOU FOOLS! WITH THE POWER OF THIS
ARTIFACT, THE FORCES OF BAPHUMMA'AL WILL BE UNSTOPPABLE, AND YOU
WILL BE CRUSHED ALONG WITH THE REST OF THIS PITIFUL WORLD!
OUR FORCES WILL...

BLAH-
BLAH-BLAH.
DONT YOU HAVE A
GATE TO DISAPPEAR
THROUGH?

SOMEDAY YOU
WILL PAY FOR INTERRUPTING
MY DIRE ADMONISHINGS, WIZARD.
VERY WELL I TAKE MY LEAVE
OF YOU ALL.



AREN'T WE GOING TO
FOLLOW HIM?

NO.

BUT HE
HAS THE ORB OF
OMNISCIENCE. ISN'T
THAT, LIKE, BAD?



AND YOU, MISTER!
WHY DID YOU MAKE ALL THOSE
WIZARDS BE DEAD?!

OH, THEY AREN'T
DEAD, REALLY AT LEAST,
THAT'S WHAT ARTAX
TOLD ME...

IT WAS ALL
PART OF MY PLAN.
THEY VOLUNTEERED, KIND
OF. THE ORB TOLD ME
WHICH ONES WOULD BE
WILLING TO HELP US
OUT, AND LED ME
TO THEM.

HELP OUT
WITH WHAT?

AT THAT MOMENT, IN A HIDDEN TEMPLE...

LET'S JUST
SAY I WOULDN'T
WANT TO BE THE
NEXT PERSON TO
USE THAT THING
FOR NEFARIOUS
PURPOSES...

AT LAST, I
HAVE IT!

AND NOW, TO
EXPERIENCE WHAT
TRUE KNOWLEDGE
CAN BRING!

HELLO, THERE!
WE'RE THE **MEMO** KEEPERS
OF THE ORB.

THE ONES WHO
USUALLY WELCOME NEW USERS
HAVE BEEN PUT ON HOLIDAY
FOR A WHILE.

AND WHILE WE
CAN'T COMPLETELY PREVENT
YOU FROM USING THIS MAGIC
ARTIFACT...

...WE WILL
MAKE THINGS
VERY DIFFICULT
FOR YOU.

YOU'LL HAVE
A HARD TIME DISCERNING
TRUE KNOWLEDGE FROM
MY ILLUSIONS, I
GUARANTEE YOU.

NOT TO MENTION
THINGS THAT DON'T REQUIRE
MAGIC. LONG, POINTLESS STORIES
WHILE YOU'RE TRYING TO
CONCENTRATE, FOR
EXAMPLE.



AND THE
TRIVIA WE CAN
RECITE THE MOST
MEANINGLESS
INFORMATION, NOW
THAT WE CAN
ACCESS IT.

I THINK WE
SHOULD DRONE ON FOR
A FEW DAYS ABOUT THE
HORTICULTURAL VIRTUES OF
GROWING PANSIES RATHER
THAN BEGONIAS AS IT
IMPACTS ON MONEY
PRODUCTION.

AND I SENSE THERE'S A SONG YOU
DON'T CARE FOR. HOW DOES IT GO?

"I WRITE THE
SPELLS..."





GAAAAH!

WIZARD!
SNAP OUT
OF IT!

WHAT
HAPPENED?

YOU TOUCHED
IT, AND THEN
YOU STARTED
SCREAMING.

THEY DID THIS!
THOSE BLASTED ADVENTURERS!
HOW MANY TIMES MUST
THEY PLAGUE ME?!

SO IT'S
USELESS,
THEN?

NO... I NEED TO
MEDITATE AND PREPARE
SOME MIND-SHIELDING SPELLS.
USING THIS ARTIFACT WON'T BE
IMPOSSIBLE, JUST...

UNPLEASANT.

SO WHEN I HAD THE ORB, THE INSTRUCTORS INSIDE IT GAVE ME THE IDEA OF LEAVING PART OF MY MIND IN THE ARTIFACT ITSELF. I SAW THAT IT WOULD FALL INTO NODWICK'S HANDS, AND THEN I COULD START MY PLAN ROLLING.

YOU COULD SEE THE FUTURE WITH IT?

NOT EXACTLY. I COULD SEE PROBABILITY, ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES' WORTH, AND THEN EVERYTHING GETS TOO COMPLEX TO PREDICT.

SO YOU WERE GUIDING NITWICK, THEN?

EXACTLY. THE ORB AND I WERE JUST TELLING HIM WHERE TO GO. I CAST THE IMPROVED GATE SPELL I DISCOVERED THROUGH HIM.

THEN WHY DID WE GO TO THE BAKERY FIRST?

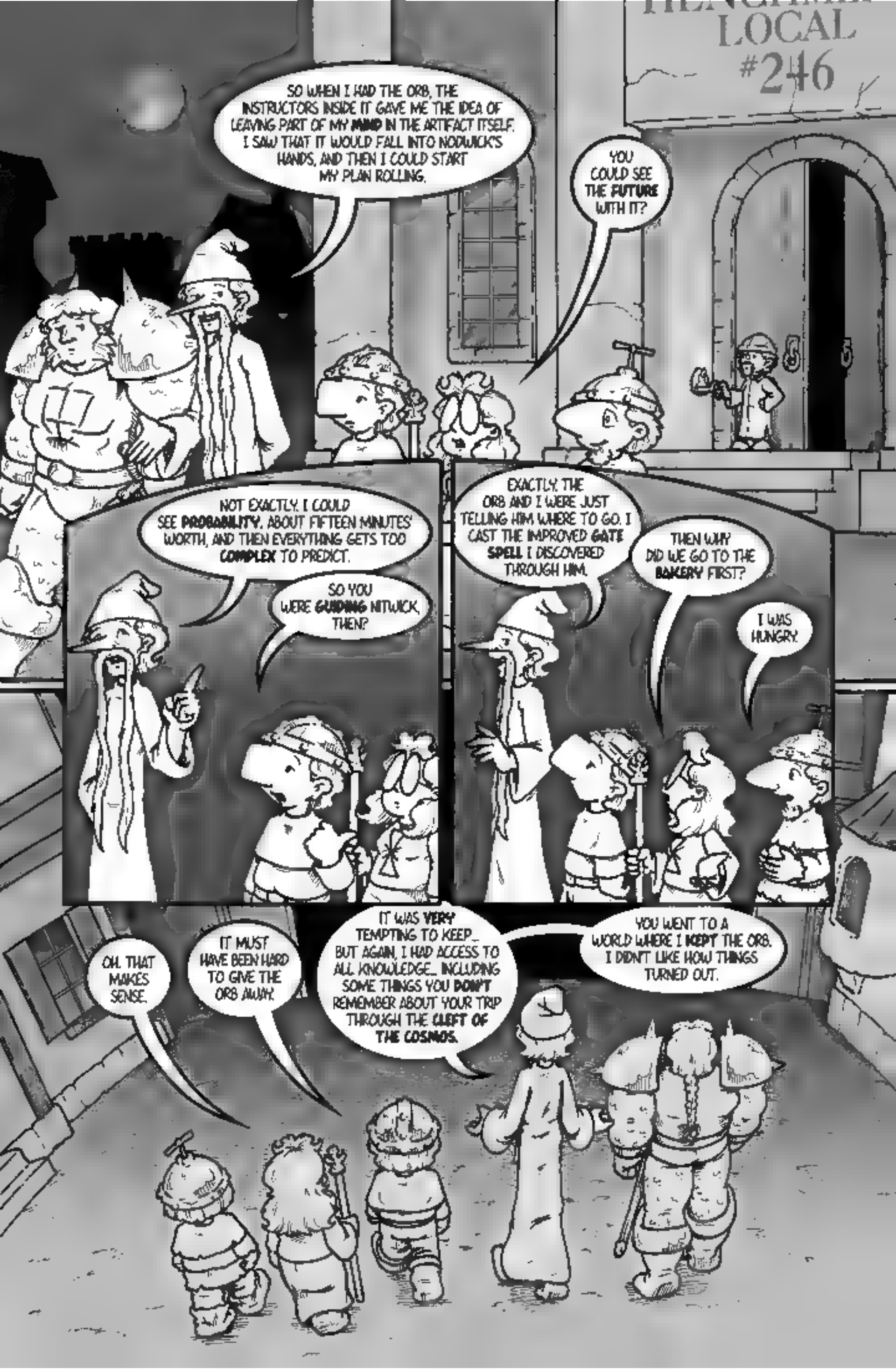
I WAS HUNGRY.

OH, THAT MAKES SENSE.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD TO GIVE THE ORB AWAY.

IT WAS VERY TEMPTING TO KEEP... BUT AGAIN, I HAD ACCESS TO ALL KNOWLEDGE... INCLUDING SOME THINGS YOU DON'T REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR TRIP THROUGH THE CLEFT OF THE COSMOS.

YOU WENT TO A WORLD WHERE I KEPT THE ORB. I DIDN'T LIKE HOW THINGS TURNED OUT.



I DON'T SUPPOSE
YOU LOOKED FOR ANY EASY-
TO-FIND TREASURE TO REPLACE THE
CHESTS OF LOOT NODWICK LEFT
BEHIND WHEN WE STARTED THIS
WHOLE MAGIC-GATE BUSINESS,
DID YOU?

ER, NO... BUT I
DID NOTICE SOMETHING
YOU MIGHT BE MORE
INTERESTED IN.


I DIDN'T PRY,
SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT
YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THIS
"ROWEN" WOMAN IS, BUT I
DISCOVERED HER CURRENT
LOCATION.

AND SHE'S IN
TROUBLE...


MEANWHILE...

WE HAVE ANOTHER
PROBLEM.


WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE AN EVEN GREATER
ONE IF I CAN'T FINISH MEDITATING
AND MEMORIZING THESE
SPELLS IN PEACE!




FINE. THEN I SUPPOSE
YOU KNOW WHERE OUR WARRIOR
HAS GOTTEN OFF TO?




HE'S GONE?




NO, I PURPOSEFULLY
INTERRUPTED YOU TO LET YOU KNOW
THAT HE'S RIGHT WHERE HE LEFT HIM.
OF COURSE HE'S GONE!




BUT WHERE
WOULD HE GO? YOU
SAID UTHARR BARELY HAD
ENOUGH CONSCIOUSNESS
TO WALK, LET ALONE
WANDER OFF!



RE-BUILDING
AN UNDEAD MIND IS
RARELY EASY, AND I'M DOING
THE BEST AS I CAN. HE'S OF
NO USE TO US UNLESS HE
CAN LEAD SOME KIND OF
FIGHTING FORCE INTO
BATTLE.



HIS REVIVIFICATION
VAT LIES EMPTY. THE TRAIL OF IKHOR ENDS
NEAR THE TEMPLE PASSAGE LEADING OUT
INTO THE DEEP BOGS.



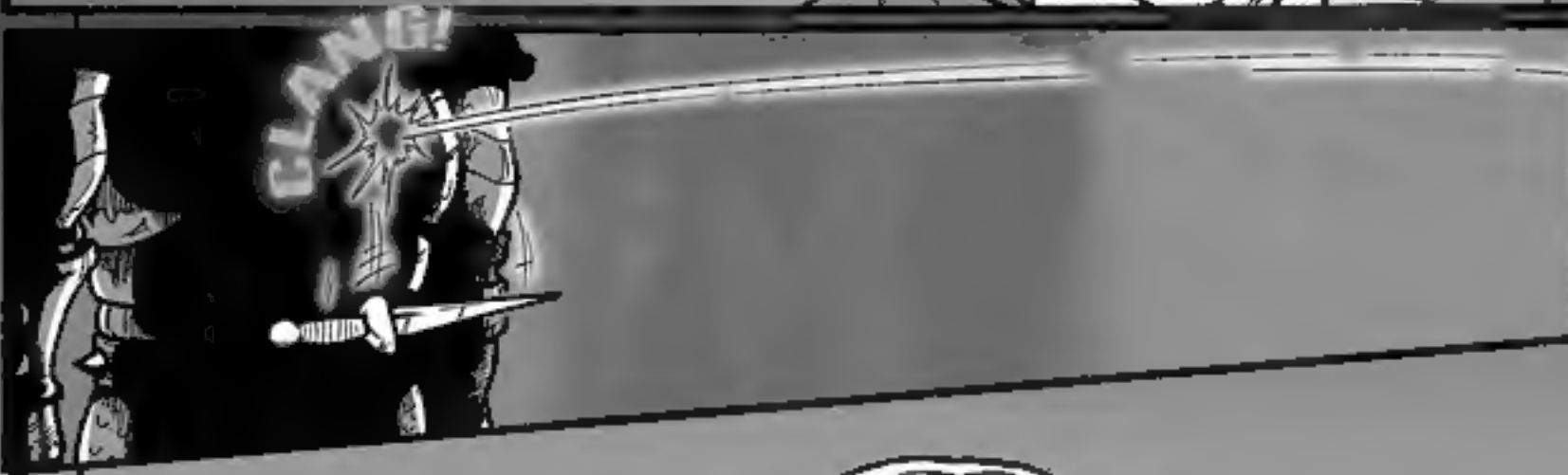
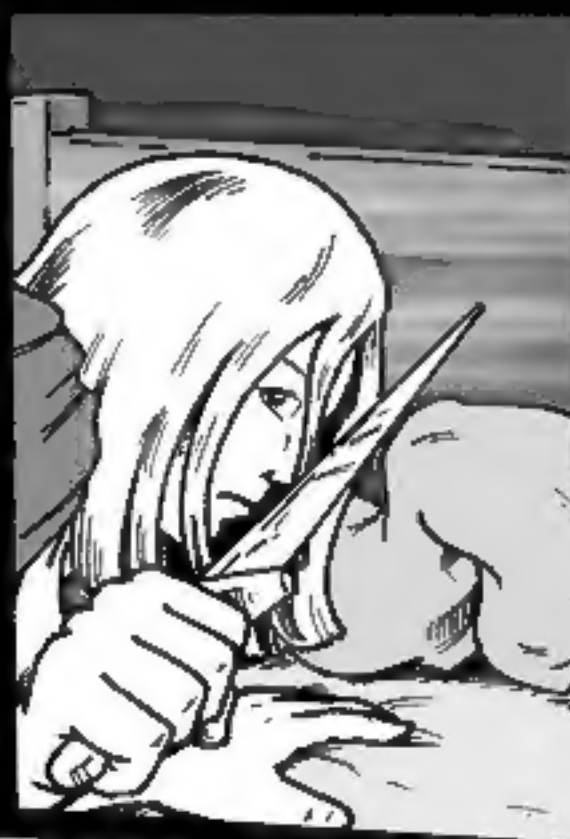
BAPHUMMAL WILL
BE DISPLEASED.

A FEW HOURS LATER, IN THE NEARBY DUCHY OF THUL

UNLESS
YOU CAN USE
YOUR NEW TOY
TO FIND HIM.

I'LL DO
WHAT I CAN DO
NOT DISTURB ME FOR
ANOTHER TWO NIGHTS
AND I WILL MAKE THE
ATTEMPT...





TO BE CONTINUED
YET AGAIN...



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